

P770137-1244

August 11, 1977

Dear Senator Percy:

This is in response to your letter of July 29 asking for the Department's comments on the recent newspaper column by Les Whitten and Jack Anderson on the claim against Israel in connection with the U.S.S. Liberty incident of June 1967.

The Government of Israel has discharged fully the claims of individuals and a small U.S. Government claim arising from this incident. The Department of State has pressed the remaining claim, for compensation for physical damage to the vessel itself, on a number of occasions. The Israeli Government denied responsibility but offered to pay a nominal sum which was rejected. During the past few years this claim has been permitted to remain outstanding, but the Department of State maintains that the claim is a valid obligation of the Government of Israel.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Charles H. Percy,
United States Senate.

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Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/NE

REVIEWED BY J. B. Atwood DATE 8/5/83

REASON(S)

FOR XRS EXT. DATE

TS. AUTH.

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒

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FOI EXEMPTIONS

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